

Senate Bill No. 247

CHAPTER 601

An act to amend Section 102425 of the Health and Safety Code, to amend Section 19272 of, and to amend and renumber Section 19532 of, the Revenue and Taxation Code, and to amend Section 11475.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to support.

[Approved by Governor October 1, 1997. Filed
with Secretary of State October 3, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 247, Lockyer. Collection of child support.

Existing law requires a district attorney to take appropriate action to establish, modify, and enforce child support orders when the child is receiving public assistance, and when appropriate, to take the same actions on behalf of a child who is not receiving public assistance. Under existing law, the district attorney may refer child support delinquencies to the Franchise Tax Board for collection and is required to receive credit for no less than 50% of the amount collected.

This bill would require a district attorney enforcing child support obligations to refer all child support delinquencies to the Franchise Tax Board for collection. The bill would also require the district attorney to utilize the collection services of the Franchise Tax Board, as specified. The bill would impose a state-mandated local program by requiring a new duty of district attorneys. The bill would provide that the district attorney would receive credit for the amount collected when a referral is made.

Existing law requires amounts collected by the Franchise Tax Board to be applied to debts in a specified order.

This bill would provide that a voluntary payment by an obligated parent for a child support delinquency would be applied solely to the child support delinquency.

Existing law specifies information to be contained within a certificate of live birth.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

This bill would provide that it shall become operative only if AB 573 and AB 1395 are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 1998.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 102425 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

102425. (a) The certificate of live birth for any live birth occurring on or after January 1, 1980, shall contain those items necessary to establish the fact of the birth and shall contain only the following information:

- (1) Full name and sex of child.
 - (2) Date of birth, including month, day, hour, and year.
 - (3) Planned place of birth and place of birth.
 - (4) Full name of the father, birthplace, and date of birth of the father including month, day, and year. If the parents are not married to each other, the father's name shall not be listed on the birth certificate unless the father and the mother sign a voluntary declaration of paternity at the hospital before the birth certificate is prepared. The birth certificate may be amended to add the father's name at a later date only if paternity for the child has been established by a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction or by the filing of a voluntary declaration of paternity.
 - (5) Full birth name of the mother, birthplace, and date of birth of the mother including month, day, and year.
 - (6) Multiple births and birth order of multiple births.
 - (7) Signature, and relationship to child, of a parent or other informant, and date signed.
 - (8) Name, title, and mailing address of attending physician and surgeon or principal attendant, signature, and certification of live birth by attending physician and surgeon or principal attendant or certifier, date signed, and name and title of certifier if other than attending physician and surgeon or principal attendant.
 - (9) Date accepted for registration and signature of local registrar.
 - (10) A state birth certificate number and local registration district and number.
 - (11) A blank space for entry of date of death with a caption reading "Date of Death."
- (b) In addition to the items listed in subdivision (a), the certificate of live birth shall contain the following medical and social information, provided that the information is kept confidential pursuant to Sections 102430 and 102447 and is clearly labeled "Confidential Information for Public Health Use Only:"

- (1) Birth weight.
- (2) Pregnancy history.
- (3) Race and ethnicity of the mother and father.



- (4) Residence address of the mother.
- (5) A blank space for entry of census tract for the mother's address.
- (6) Month prenatal care began and number of prenatal visits.
- (7) Date of last normal menses.
- (8) Description of complications of pregnancy and concurrent illnesses, congenital malformation, and any complication of labor and delivery, including surgery; provided that this information is essential medical information and appears in total on the face of the certificate.
- (9) Mother's and father's occupations and kind of business or industry.
- (10) Education level of mother and father.
- (11) Principal source of pay for prenatal care, which shall include all of the following: Medi-Cal, health maintenance organization or prepaid health plan, private insurance companies, medically indigent, self-pay, other sources which shall include, Medicare, workers' compensation, Title V, other government or nongovernment programs, no charge, and other categories as determined by the State Department of Health Services.

This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1, 1999, or on the implementation date of the decennial birth certificate revision due to occur on or about January 1, 1999, whichever occurs first.
- (12) Expected principal source of pay for delivery, which shall include all of the following: Medi-Cal, health maintenance organization or prepaid health plan, private insurance companies, medically indigent, self-pay, other sources which shall include, Medicare, workers' compensation, Title V, other government or nongovernment programs, no charge, and other categories as determined by the State Department of Health Services.

This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1, 1999, or on the implementation date of the decennial birth certificate revision due to occur on or about January 1, 1999, whichever occurs first.
- (13) An indication of whether or not the child's parent desires the automatic issuance of a Social Security number to the child.
- (14) On and after January 1, 1995, the Social Security numbers of the mother and father, unless subdivision (b) of Section 102150 applies.
 - (c) Item 8, specified in subdivision (b), shall be completed by the attending physician and surgeon or the attending physician's and surgeon's designated representative. The names and addresses of children born with congenital malformations, who require followup treatment, as determined by the child's physician and surgeon, shall be furnished by the physician and surgeon to the local health officer, if permission is granted by either parent of the child.

(d) The parent shall only be asked to sign the form after both the public portion and the confidential medical and social information items have been entered upon the certificate of live birth.

(e) The State Registrar shall instruct all local registrars to collect the information specified in this section with respect to certificates of live birth. The information shall be transcribed on the certificate of live birth in use at the time and shall be limited to the information specified in this section.

Information relating to concurrent illnesses, complications of pregnancy and delivery, and congenital malformations shall be completed by the physician and surgeon, or physician's and surgeon's designee, inserting in the space provided on the confidential portion of the certificate the appropriate number or numbers listed on the VS-10A supplemental worksheet. The VS-10A supplemental form shall be used as a worksheet only and shall not in any manner be linked with the identity of the child or the mother, nor submitted with the certificate to the State Registrar. All information transferred from the worksheet to the certificate shall be fully explained to the parent or other informant prior to the signing of the certificate. No questions relating to drug or alcohol abuse may be asked.

(f) If the implementation date of the decennial birth certificate revision occurs prior to January 1, 1999, within 30 days of this implementation date the State Department of Health Services shall file a letter with the Secretary of the Senate and with the Chief Clerk of the Assembly, so certifying.

SEC. 2. Section 19272 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

19272. (a) Any child support delinquency collected by the Franchise Tax Board, including those amounts that result in overpayment of a child support delinquency, shall be deposited in the State Treasury, after clearance of the remittance, to the credit of the Special Deposit Fund and distributed as specified by interagency agreement executed by the Franchise Tax Board and the State Department of Social Services, with the concurrence of the Controller. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all moneys deposited in the Special Deposit Fund pursuant to this article are hereby continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, for purposes of making distributions.

(b) When a child support delinquency, or any portion thereof, has been collected by the Franchise Tax Board pursuant to this article, the district attorney shall be notified that the delinquency or some portion thereof has been collected and shall be provided any other necessary relevant information requested.

(c) The referring county district attorney shall receive credit for the amount of collections made pursuant to the referral, and shall receive the applicable child support enforcement incentives pursuant to Section 15200.85 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Collection costs incurred by the Franchise Tax Board shall be paid by federal reimbursement with any balance to be paid from the General Fund.

SEC. 3. Section 19532 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as amended by Chapter 1001 of the Statutes of 1996, is amended and renumbered to read:

19533. In the event the debtor has more than one debt being collected by the Franchise Tax Board and the amount collected by the Franchise Tax Board is insufficient to satisfy the total amount owing, the amount collected shall be applied in the following priority:

(a) Payment of any taxes, additions to tax, penalties, interest, fees, or other amounts due and payable under Part 7.5 (commencing with Section 13201), Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001), Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001), or this part.

(b) Payment of any debts referred for collection under Article 5 (commencing with Section 19271) of Chapter 5.

(c) Payment of delinquent wages collected pursuant to the Labor Code.

(d) Payment of delinquencies collected under Section 10878.

(e) Payment of any amounts due that are referred for collection under Article 6 (commencing with Section 19280) of Chapter 5.

(f) Payment of any amounts that are referred for collection pursuant to Section 62.9 of the Labor Code.

(g) Payment of delinquent penalties collected for the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

(h) Payment of delinquent fees collected for the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.

(i) Payment of delinquencies referred by the Student Aid Commission pursuant to Section 16583.5 of the Government Code.

(j) Notwithstanding the payment priority established by this section, voluntary payments made by an obligated parent for a child support obligation pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 19271 shall not be applied pursuant to this priority but shall instead be applied solely to the child support obligation for which the voluntary payment was made.

SEC. 4. Section 11475.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11475.1. (a) Each county shall maintain a single organizational unit located in the office of the district attorney which shall have the responsibility for promptly and effectively establishing, modifying, and enforcing child support obligations, including medical support, enforcing spousal support orders established by a court of competent jurisdiction, and determining paternity in the case of a child born out of wedlock. The district attorney shall take appropriate action, both civil and criminal, to establish, modify, and enforce child support and, when appropriate, enforce spousal support orders when the child is receiving public assistance, including Medi-Cal, and, when

appropriate, may take the same actions on behalf of a child who is not receiving public assistance, including Medi-Cal. The district attorney shall refer all child support delinquencies to the Franchise Tax Board pursuant to Section 19271 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(b) Actions brought by the district attorney to establish paternity or child support or to enforce child support obligations shall be completed within the time limits set forth by federal law. The district attorney's responsibility applies to spousal support only where the spousal support obligation has been reduced to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. In any action brought for modification or revocation of an order that is being enforced under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 651 et seq.), the effective date of the modification or revocation shall be as prescribed by federal law (42 U.S.C. Sec. 666(a)(9)), or any subsequent date.

(c) (1) The Judicial Council, in consultation with the department and representatives of the California Family Support Council, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, and a legal services organization providing representation on child support matters, shall develop simplified summons, complaint, and answer forms for any action for support brought pursuant to this section or Section 11350.1. The Judicial Council may combine the summons and complaint in a single form.

(2) The simplified complaint form shall provide the defendant with notice of the amount of child support that is sought pursuant to the guidelines set forth in Article 2 (commencing with Section 4050) of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Family Code based upon the income or income history of the defendant as known to the district attorney. If the defendant's income or income history is unknown to the district attorney, the complaint shall inform the defendant that income shall be presumed in an amount that results in a court order equal to the minimum basic standard of adequate care provided in Section 11452 unless information concerning the defendant's income is provided to the court. The complaint form shall be accompanied by a proposed judgment. The complaint form shall include a notice to the defendant that the proposed judgment will become effective if he or she fails to file an answer with the court within 30 days of service.

(3) (A) The simplified answer form shall be written in simple English and shall permit a defendant to answer and raise defenses by checking applicable boxes. The answer form shall include instructions for completion of the form and instructions for proper filing of the answer.

(B) The answer form shall be accompanied by a blank income and expense declaration or simplified financial statement and instructions on how to complete the financial forms. The answer form shall direct the defendant to file the completed income and expense declaration or simplified financial statement with the answer, but



shall state that the answer will be accepted by a court without the income and expense declaration or simplified financial statement.

(C) The clerk of the court shall accept and file answers, income and expense declarations, and simplified financial statements that are completed by hand provided they are legible.

(4) (A) The simplified complaint form prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be used by the district attorney or the Attorney General in all cases brought under this section or Section 11350.1.

(B) The simplified answer form prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be served on all defendants with the simplified complaint. Failure to serve the simplified answer form on all defendants shall not invalidate any judgment obtained. However, failure to serve the answer form may be used as evidence in any proceeding under Section 11356 of this code or Section 473 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(C) The Judicial Council shall add language to the governmental summons, for use by the district attorney with the governmental complaint to establish parental relationship and child support, informing defendants that a blank answer form should have been received with the summons and additional copies may be obtained from either the district attorney's office or the superior court clerk.

(d) In any action brought or enforcement proceedings instituted by the district attorney pursuant to this section for payment of child or spousal support, an action to recover an arrearage in support payments may be maintained by the district attorney at any time within the period otherwise specified for the enforcement of a support judgment, notwithstanding the fact that the child has attained the age of majority.

(e) The county shall undertake an outreach program to inform the public that the services described in subdivisions (a) to (c), inclusive, are available to persons not receiving public assistance. There shall be prominently displayed in every public area of every office of the units established by this section a notice, in clear and simple language prescribed by the Director of Social Services, that the services provided in subdivisions (a) to (c), inclusive, are provided to all individuals whether or not they are recipients of public social services.

(f) In any action to establish a child support order brought by the district attorney in the performance of duties under this section, the district attorney may make a motion for an order effective during the pendency of that action, for the support, maintenance, and education of the child or children that are the subject of the action. This order shall be referred to as an order for temporary support. This order shall have the same force and effect as a like or similar order under the Family Code.

The district attorney shall file a motion for an order for temporary support within the following time limits:

(1) If the defendant is the mother, a presumed father under Section 7611 of the Family Code, or any father where the child is at least six months old when the defendant files his answer, the time limit is 90 days after the defendant files an answer.

(2) In any other case where the defendant has filed an answer prior to the birth of the child or not more than six months after the birth of the child, then the time limit is nine months after the birth of the child.

If more than one child is the subject of the action, the limitation on reimbursement shall apply only as to those children whose parental relationship and age would bar recovery were a separate action brought for support of that child or those children.

If the district attorney fails to file a motion for an order for temporary support within time limits specified in this section, the district attorney shall be barred from obtaining a judgment of reimbursement for any support provided for that child during the period between the date the time limit expired and the motion was filed, or, if no such motion is filed, when a final judgment is entered.

Nothing in this section prohibits the district attorney from entering into cooperative arrangements with other county departments as necessary to carry out the responsibilities imposed by this section pursuant to plans of cooperation with the departments approved by the State Department of Social Services.

Nothing in this section shall otherwise limit the ability of the district attorney from securing and enforcing orders for support of a spouse or former spouse as authorized under any other provision of law.

(g) As used in this article, “enforcing obligations” includes, but is not limited to, (1) the use of all interception and notification systems operated by the State Department of Social Services for the purposes of aiding in the enforcement of support obligations, (2) the obtaining by the district attorney of an initial order for child support, which may include medical support or which is for medical support only, by civil or criminal process, (3) the initiation of a motion or order to show cause to increase an existing child support order, and the response to a motion or order to show cause brought by an obligor parent to decrease an existing child support order, or the initiation of a motion or order to show cause to obtain an order for medical support, and the response to a motion or order to show cause brought by an obligor parent to decrease or terminate an existing medical support order, without regard to whether the child is receiving public assistance, (4) the response to a notice of motion or order to show cause brought by an obligor parent to decrease an existing spousal support order when the child or children are residing with the obligee parent and the district attorney is also enforcing a related child support obligation owed to the obligee parent by the same obligor, and (5) the use of the collection services of the Franchise Tax



Board to enforce the collection of child support delinquencies under Section 19271 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(h) As used in this section, “out of wedlock” means that the biological parents of the child were not married to each other at the time of the child’s conception.

(i) The district attorney is the public agency responsible for administering wage withholding for the purposes of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 651 et seq.). Notwithstanding any other law, the district attorney shall utilize the collection services of the Franchise Tax Board under Section 19271 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the district attorney granted by other sections of this code or otherwise granted by law, except to the extent that the law is inconsistent with the requirement to refer child support delinquencies to the Franchise Tax Board for collection pursuant to Section 19271 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(j) In the exercise of the authority granted under this article, the district attorney may intervene, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 387 of the Code of Civil Procedure, by ex parte application, in any action under the Family Code, or other proceeding wherein child support is an issue or a reduction in spousal support is sought. By notice of motion, order to show cause, or responsive pleading served upon all parties to the action, the district attorney may request such relief as appropriate which the district attorney is authorized to seek.

(k) The district attorney shall comply with any guidelines established by the State Department of Social Services which set time standards for responding to requests for assistance in locating absent parents, establishing paternity, establishing child support awards, and collecting child support payments.

(l) As used in this article, medical support activities which the district attorney is authorized to perform are limited to the following:

(1) The obtaining and enforcing of court orders for health insurance coverage.

(2) Any other medical support activity mandated by federal law or regulation.

(m) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, venue for an action or proceeding under this part shall be determined as follows:

(A) Venue shall be in the superior court in the county that is currently expending public assistance.

(B) If public assistance is not currently being expended, venue shall be in the superior court in the county where the child who is entitled to current support resides or is domiciled.

(C) If current support is no longer payable through, or enforceable by, the district attorney, venue shall be in the superior

court in the county that last provided public assistance for actions to enforce arrearages assigned pursuant to Section 11477.

(D) If subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) do not apply, venue shall be in the superior court in the county of residence of the support obligee.

(E) If the support obligee does not reside in California, and subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) do not apply, venue shall be in the superior court of the county of residence of the obligor.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the child becomes a resident of another county after an action under this part has been filed, venue may remain in the county where the action was filed until the action is completed.

(n) The district attorney of one county may appear on behalf of the district attorney of any other county in an action or proceeding under this part.

SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because this act provides for offsetting savings to local agencies or school districts that result in no net costs to the local agencies or school districts, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

SEC. 6. This act shall become operative only if Assembly Bill 573 and Assembly Bill 1395, both of the 1997–98 Regular Session, are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 1998.

